



Friends of Willow Park Inc.

Educating and involving the community in protecting,
preserving and valuing parklands

NEWSLETTER — January 2012

Establishing Wodonga Urban Landcare Network

We are thrilled to announce that Friends of Willow Park, in partnership with Baranduda Landcare and Parklands Albury Wodonga, has received a grant from the State Government Victoria to engage a local Landcare facilitator. We were one of four successful applications in the North East of Victoria.

The grant will allow us to engage a part time facilitator for three years. This position will help us form a local Landcare Network in Wodonga. The facilitator will support existing Landcare groups and help establish new ones. The focus will be on building capacity of community groups to work together to undertake projects designed to protect and enhance the local environment.

The network will act as an 'umbrella' organisation for member groups. It will allow local groups to be autonomous within the security of an incorporated and insured network. By being part of the network local groups will be able to apply for grants and implement projects knowing that they will be supported by the facilitator.

This is a very exciting project and we encourage local groups to think about joining the network. Want to know more? Come to the information night on Wednesday 15 February.

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Vacancy- Landcare Network Facilitator

Part time -16 hours per week –
contractor status
\$40 per hour + 9% superannuation
Fixed term position for up to 3 years

The position will:

- establish a network of community Landcare groups in the municipality of Wodonga;
- provide strategic coordination, leadership and planning support to the Network to achieve its objectives; and
- help to **strengthen the capacities** of the Network and its member groups.

Position Description available from:
president@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Applications close 6 February 2012

Patrons: Professor David Mitchell, Professor Allan Curtis, Dr Juliet Bird

Postal Address: c/- P.O. Box 5319, Wodonga Plaza, Wodonga, 3690

Website: www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Email: president@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Phone: Julie: (02)6056 1787, Ali (02) 6056 1938

Fax: (02) 6056 2694

Biolinks Project update

Friends of Willow Park received a grant for the Biolinks Project from the State Government Victoria through Second Generation Landcare. The project is focussed on improving 10 km along the banks of House and Huon Creeks. Friends of Willow Park is implementing this in partnership with Parklands Albury Wodonga and Gardens for Wildlife.

House and Huon Creeks in Wodonga are wildlife corridors between the surrounding hills and the Murray River. The Biolinks project will improve the corridor by replacing weeds with native plants to provide food and shelter for wildlife. Native plants will also add colour, fragrance, and help stabilise the banks during floods.

The Biolinks Project encourages and supports community groups to adopt their bit of creek. Doing achievable bits add up together to make a whole creek of environmental improvement. Stewardship groups are forming along the creek.



Approximately 500 volunteers from schools, community groups, residents and corporate groups have helped plant 5,000 shrubs and trees along the banks of House Creek. The plantings are now being secured from weed competition by the addition of weed 'mat' and mulch.

The Biolink Project Coordinator, Jill Dawson, coordinates and supports the community groups and promotes events.

Upcoming events include workshops in February and March 2012. Come, join in the fun!

Biolinks Project workshops

**Easy, interesting and FUN.....
Everyone welcome FREE**

“Bring nature to your backyard”

Includes: “Easy care gardening”

Saturday 11 February

Thursday 16 February

“Flooding, waterways, and common reed”

Includes: “What will we do with what type of willows?”

Saturday 25 February

Thursday 1 March

“Looking after our bush”

Includes: “Local native plants and weeds identification”

Saturday 10 March

Thursday 15 March

Thursday workshops: 10 am to 12 noon

Saturday workshops: 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Meet at Willow Park BBQ near Pearce Street car park

Wear sensible clothes and shoes and bring water, sunscreen and hat.

Also bring a cup and ‘makings’ for your cuppa – we will bring thermos and biscuits – You might like to bring something also; maybe a treat to share?

More information and **RSVP**: Biolinks Project coordinator, Jill Dawson
0457 834 892 or email coordination@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Social events

In March 2011 we commenced a social night at the German, Austrian, Australian Club. These nights have been great fun and well attended.

There have been many benefits from our social evenings. It is a great way to get to know others socially and meet like-minded people. Many good friendships have been formed and fostered.

These evenings have also enabled us to meet some of the people from the new stewardship groups that have formed as part of the Biolinks project. It has been very interesting to hear about their activities.

The Club was also the venue for our end-of-year get together. A fun-filled evening was had by all on Friday 16 December when 44 members and friends came together for our annual Christmas celebration.



Our very own Christmas elves

This year we are looking forward to continuing the tradition. The next three events at the Club will be:

Friday 10 February
Friday 16 March
Friday 13 April

Time: 6 pm
Cost: Mains, \$6; dessert, \$4;
Drinks at bar prices

RSVP is essential! Contact Pauline
on: 0403 149 860 OR 6056 6275

Next Information Evening

*An opportunity to learn about and
discuss the possibilities of the new
Wodonga Urban Landcare
Network*

When? Wednesday 15 Feb 2012

What time? 7.30 p.m.

Where? Belvoir School, 4 Bowman
Court, Wodonga

Light supper provided

Further information: Contact Julie
on 6056 1787 or email
president@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Community Gardening in the Park and Waterwatch

Waterwatch

9.00 am – 10.00 am
Sunday 12 February
Sunday 18 March
Sunday 22 April

Community gardening

9:30 am to 11:30 am
Sunday 12 February
Sunday 18 March
Sunday 15 April

BYO refreshments, sunscreen, hat
Meet near the BBQ area in Willow Park

Phone Pauline – 6056 6275 (Gardening
or Karen - 0409 566 258 (Waterwatch))

Waterwatch 2012

Hello everyone – I am the new Waterwatch coordinator for Friends of Willow Park. Waterwatch is a joint state and federal government initiative to monitor the biological and chemical health of waterways. Friends of Willow Park collects data in relation to House Creek on a monthly basis for use by the North East Catchment Authority (NECMA) and the Wodonga City. The data is included in a major database that collates information from around the state.

We take water samples and test them. This helps us assess the health of the water in House Creek and in the wetland near Pearce Street. Come, join in gathering the data or come and watch what happens – everyone is welcome. It is both fun and interesting!

All equipment is supplied along with training and support. Thanks to Mark Stacey and Wolfgang Huber for volunteering their time to do the training with Vanessa Thompson from NECMA. I really appreciate their assistance and jokes!

For any more details please contact me on 0409566258

Karen Stacey, Waterwatch coordinator

Our priorities for 2012

Toward the end of 2011 members were invited to join the committee to review our strategic plan and set our 2012 priorities. In summary these are:

- continue our social events;
- encourage more volunteers and give them better support;
- work with council on the implementation of the master plan;
- obtain grants to progress sections of the master plan to which we can contribute, particularly:
 - improving the Pearce Street entrance near the wetland;
 - interpretative signage;

- planting for greater biodiversity along the creek; and
- beginning to establish ephemeral wetland areas;
- focus our community gardening activities on identified priority areas between Pearce Street and Hereford Street bridges;
- help establish a Wodonga urban Landcare network. Among other things, the network will provide groups such as Friends of Belvoir Park and the new stewardship groups an ‘umbrella’ incorporated organisation to join, giving them greater autonomy than is possible under the current auspice arrangements with Friends of Willow Park; and
- improve our monitoring and evaluation of our various activities.

Huon Creek “friends”

We are a very small group with an interest in Huon Creek. We have just commenced on some community gardening projects to reinstate an area damaged by flood. The knowledgeable support and input by Jill from Biolinks and Anthea from Parklands has made what seems a daunting task possible. It was also encouraging to have members from the Friends of Willow Park assist in our working bee.

It is our aim to work in partnership with Council and NECMA to maintain and improve the Huon Creek walking corridor and creek bank for the benefit of the community.

Thank you Friends of Willow Park. We appreciate your support and look forward to working together in 2012.

Brian and Joyce Trebilcock for the Huon Creek Group.

Editor’s note: the Huon ‘friends’ is one of the stewardship groups formed through the Biolinks project and auspiced by Friends of Willow Park – welcome to this small group of keen ‘Landcarers’.



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MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE: _____

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE
Donations always welcome

I wish to join *Friends of Willow Park*. I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association and to support the group's objectives (below).

Donation: _____

Payment: (circle) Cash/Cheque
Cheques payable to: Friends of Willow Park Inc.

Receipt Number: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Send your completed form to:

Mail:
Friends of Willow Park Inc.
c/- P.O. Box 5319, Wodonga Plaza,
Wodonga, 3690
Email:
membership@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Participating in Friends of Willow Park

Friends of Willow Park is an active group and we encourage you to get involved. Please indicate how you would like to participate (you can tick as many of these as you want). I would like to help out with:

- Helping with the campaigns to save Willow Park from undue development
- Being part of the Committee of Management
- Helping with the newsletter
- Walks, talks, tours, socials
- Hands-on environment projects
- Water quality testing
- Information stalls and publications
- Interest Groups
- Fundraising

Our Objectives

- (a) To promote the protection and preservation of Willow Park as public open space parkland;
- (b) To promote the protection and preservation of the social, economic and environmental value of Willow Park including the flora, fauna and features (scenic, archaeological, geological, historic or scientific);
- (c) To educate and inform the community about the role and value of Willow Park; and
- (d) To foster community involvement in, and enjoyment of, Willow Park in accordance with the above objectives.

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